THE

HARLEQUIN.

A

Journal of the Drama.

CONDUCTED BY THE EDITOR OF THE "COMPANION TO THE THEATRES."

WITH ENGRAVINGS AND AUTOGRAPHS.

Sometimes I joy, when glad occasion sits,
And mask in mirth like to a comedy;
Soon after, when my joy to sorrow flits,
I wail, and make my woe a tragedy.—SPENSER.

Will you see the players well bestowed? Do you hear, let them be well used; for they are the abstract, and brief chronicles of the time.—HAMLET.

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TO THE READER.

"LOOK, MY ABRIDGEMENT COMES."—HAMLET.

WE are sorry so soon to intrude "ourselves" again on the patience of the reader; but, as the present number will conclude our HARLEQUINADE, we must say a word or two in explanation.

"The HARLEQUIN," was fast winning its way to popularity, when, just as our No. vii. was preparing for publication, the Commissioners of Stamps bethought themselves that our little weekly sheet was a "Newspaper," and consequently liable to stamp duty; and they accordingly proceeded against our printer and publisher, *ex officio*. We petitioned and remonstrated, with precedents of many years standing; but all was of no avail, for since No. viii. was published, we have received a communication from the Solicitor of Stamps, stating, "that if the publication be continued, it must be entered as a newspaper, and printed on stamps accordingly." As we could not consistently omit the criticisms on performances, which have thus been tortured into "news," we resolved to discontinue the work altogether, rather than present it to the public in an imperfect state. Whether we may be induced to renew our labours in another form, is a matter for future consideration; but, we beg to state that we have not connected ourselves with any other Dramatic Work.

We were fast gaining the golden opinions of our subscribers; our weekly sale was rapidly on the increase; and we began to look for something like a recompense of reward. Independent of the former success, which any editor must value,—our pecuniary loss, by the suspension of "the HARLEQUIN," will be considerable; but we attach some importance to the high favour with which our labours have hitherto been received, and we place this satisfaction *contra* our sacrifice and disappointment. So

"FAREWELL! OTHELLO'S OCCUPATION'S GONE."

July 11*th*, 1829.

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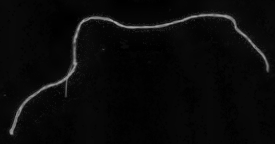
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